

In the Claims

Below is a list of current claims with status identifiers.

1.-31. (cancelled)

Sub C1
3932. (Currently Amended) A method for determining the amount of toner required to render a print job using a print engine at a printing location without prior information about the a toner level of a toner cartridge from which toner is supplied to the rendering operation thereof, comprising the steps of:

5 accumulating in a first register the toner values, expressed as an incremental value ranging from zero to a maximum value, of all the pixels in a rasterized image prior to sending the print job to the printing location;

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10 decrementing the toner level first register for the print engine at the printing location if a comparison of the accumulated value with the toner level for the printing location indicates that the accumulated value in the first register is less than or equal to the toner level of the print engine; and

 sending the print job to the print engine at the printing location for rendering.

4033. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 3932, further comprising the step of:

 sending the print job to an alternative print engine for rendering if the accumulated value is greater than the toner level of the print engine at the printing location.

4134. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 3932, wherein the step of accumulating comprises the steps of:

5 expressing the toner value of each pixel in the rasterized image as one of a plurality of incremental units between zero and having values from zero to maximum black; and

 accumulating the toner values for all of the non-zero-valued pixels in the

rasterized image in the first register.

~~4235. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim ~~4134~~, wherein the step of decrementing comprises the steps of:~~

~~comparing the value in the first register with ~~the~~ a toner level register for the print engine at the printing location; and~~

~~5 subtracting the value in the first register if it is less than or equal to the value in the toner level register for the print engine at the printing location.~~

~~4336. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim ~~3932~~, wherein the step of accumulating comprises the steps of:~~

~~determining an average toner value for the pixels of the rasterized image;~~

~~5 defining the toner required for rendering the rasterized image as a percentage of a maximum black page; and~~

~~entering the defined toner required into a second register.~~

~~4437. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim ~~4336~~, wherein the step of decrementing comprises the steps of:~~

~~comparing the value in the second register with ~~the~~ a toner level register for the print engine at the printing location; and~~

~~5 subtracting the value in the second register if it is less than or equal to the value in the toner level register for the print engine at the printing location.~~

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

S/N 09/848,456

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